Salvadoran Lenca

Salvadoran Lenca was spoken in Chilanga and Potó. Lencans had arrived in El Salvador about 2,000 years B.P. and founded the site of Quelepa. One speaker remains in Poto.

Salvadoran Lenca is of the small language family of Lencan languages that consists of two languages one of which is the Salvadoran Lenca and the Honduran Lenca. There have been attempts to link the Lencan languages to other languages within their groupings, but there has been no success. [2]

Lencan	
Native to	El Salvador
Ethnicity	Lenca people
Extinct	by 2007, some semi-speakers remain
Language family	Lencan ▪ **Lencan**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (mis)
Glottolog	lenc1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/lenc1243)[1]

Map of El Salvador's Native American civilizations and their kingdoms:
- Kingdom of the Lenca people
- Kingdom of the Cacaopera people
- Kingdom of the Xinca people
- Kingdom Maya Poqomam people
- Kingdom of Maya Ch'orti' people
- Kingdom of the Alaguilac people
- Kingdom of the Mixe people
- Kingdom of the Mangue language
- Kingdom of the Pipil people

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Phonology

Consonants

Consonants in Chilanga Lenca[3]

		Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	voiceless	p	t		k	
	ejective	pʼ	tʼ		kʼ	
Affricate			t͡sʼ	t͡ʃʼ		
Fricative			s	ʃ		h
Nasal		m	n			
Lateral			l			
Rhotic			r			
Approximant		w		j		

Vowels

Vowels in Chilanga Lenca[3]

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Mid	e	o
Open	a	

Lenca Potón

As of 2012, Mario Salvador Hernández of Guatajiagua is the last speaker of Lenca Potón, which differs from the version spoken in Chilanga, where the language has disappeared. Research in 2004 by the University of Central America recorded 380 words, five vowels and 16 consonants, alternation between “g” and “k”, with reduplication to create plurals from singular forms.[4]

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